

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (currently amended) A punch holder, comprising,  
an elongated ~~hollow handle~~ body having a forward end with an enclosed first compartment having a shape to receive and engage ~~the a~~ shank of an elongated punch,  
a plunger slidably mounted in the ~~handle~~ body and having a forward end in the enclosed compartment,  
a spring associated with the plunger disposed within a second compartment and yieldingly urging the plunger into the enclosed first compartment,  
an elongated slot in the ~~handle~~ body, and  
a handle secured by one end to the plunger and extending outwardly through the slot to permit manual grasping thereof to pull the plunger rearwardly against the spring to release ~~a the~~ punch shank from engagement with the plunger, or to permit the placement of a punch within the enclosed compartment in the path of a forward end of the plunger; and  
a third storage compartment disposed within the body for receiving a plurality of punches.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (new) The punch holder of claim 1 wherein a threaded plug engages the spring to adjust the compression of the spring.

5. (new) A punch holder, comprising,  
an elongated body having a forward end with an enclosed first  
compartment having a shape to receive and engage a shank of  
an elongated punch,  
a plunger slidably mounted in the body and having a forward end  
in the first enclosed compartment,  
a spring associated with the plunger disposed within a second  
compartment yieldingly urging the plunger into the enclosed  
compartment,  
an elongated slot in the body,  
a handle secured by one end to the plunger and extending  
outwardly through the slot to permit manual grasping  
thereof to pull the plunger rearwardly against the spring  
to release the punch shank from engagement with the  
plunger, or to permit the placement of a punch within the  
enclosed compartment in the path of a forward end of the  
plunger; and  
a threaded plug engaging the spring to adjust the compression of  
the spring.

6. (new) The punch holder of claim 5 further comprising a third  
compartment disposed within the body for receiving a plurality  
of punches.

7. (new) The punch holder of claim 5 wherein the enclosed first  
compartment is frusto-shaped having a flat head and tapered side  
walls.

8. (new) A punch holder, comprising,  
an elongated body having a forward end with an enclosed  
compartment having a shape to receive and engage a shank of  
an elongated punch,  
a plunger slidably mounted in the body and having a forward end  
in the enclosed compartment,  
a spring associated with the plunger yieldingly urging the  
plunger into the enclosed compartment,  
an elongated slot in the body,  
a handle secured by one end to the plunger and extending  
outwardly through the slot to permit manual grasping  
thereof to pull the plunger rearwardly against the spring  
to release the punch shank from engagement with the  
plunger, or to permit the placement of a punch within the  
enclosed compartment in the path of a forward end of the  
plunger; and  
wherein the enclosed first compartment is frusto-shaped having a  
flat head and tapered side walls.

9. (new) The punch holder of claim 8 further comprising a  
threaded plug engaging the spring to adjust the compression of  
the spring

10. (new) The punch holder of claim 8 further comprising a third  
compartment disposed within the body for receiving a plurality  
of punches.